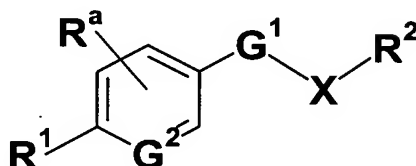


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): An arylamidine compound or a salt thereof represented by the following general formula:



wherein X represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene group;

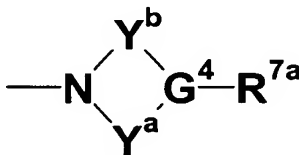
G¹ represents an oxygen atom;

G² represents a carbon atom;

R^a represents at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, and unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkoxy groups;

R¹ represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group; and

R² represents a group represented by formula (3):



wherein Y^a represents an unsubstituted or substituted C₂₋₄ lower alkylene group; and

Y^b represents an unsubstituted or substituted C₁₋₄ lower alkylene group;

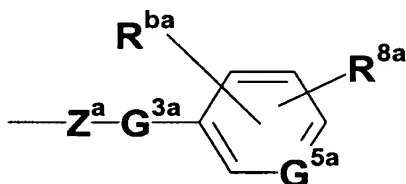
G⁴ represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

R^{7a} represents an alkyl group substituted by at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, a sulfo group, a phosphoryl

group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, carbamoyl group, hydroxycarbamoyl group, aminosulfonyl group, cyclic amino group, lower alkylamino group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkylidene group, a mercapto group, an amidinophenylaryloxy group, an aryloxy group, a lower alkylthio group, a lower alkylsulfinyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a lower alkylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkylsulfonylamino group, a lower alkylaminosulfonyl group, a carboxyl lower alkenyl group, a hydroxyl heterocyclic group, a lower alkyl heterocyclic group, a lower alkoxy-lower alkoxy group, and a lower alkoxyimino group,

or an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group,

or a group represented by the following formula:



wherein Z^a represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group;

G^{3a} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an imino group, or a direct bond;

G^{5a} represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

R^{ba} represents at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, and unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkoxy groups; and

R^{8a} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group which is bonded at the para or meta position of the position connected to G^{3a} ,

wherein the substituent of lower alkylene group for X, C_{2-4} lower alkylene group for Y^a and each of lower alkylene and alkenylene group for Z^a represent at least one group

selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino, hydroxyl and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkoxy-carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkylsulfonylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a lower alkoxy-carbonyl group;

the substituent of each of alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkoxy group for R^a , each of phenyl, cycloalkyl and alkenyl group for R^{7a} and each of alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkoxy group for R^{8a} represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, a sulfo group, a phosphoryl group, unprotected or protected carboxyl, hydroxyl and amino groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, an aminosulfonyl group, a hydroxyl lower alkyl group, an amino lower alkyl group, a cyclic amino group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkylamino-lower alkyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxy-carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, a lower alkylidene group, a mercapto group, a lower alkylthio group, a lower alkylsulfinyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a lower alkylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkylsulfonylamino group, a lower alkylaminosulfonyl group, a carboxyl lower alkyl group, a carboxyl lower alkenyl group, a hydroxyl heterocyclic group, a lower alkyl heterocyclic group, a lower alkoxy-lower alkoxy group, a halogeno lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy-lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy-carbonyl-lower alkyl group and a lower alkoxyimino group;

the substituent of amidino group for each of R^1 and R^{8a} represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxy-carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group and an aralkyl group;

the substituent of C₁₋₄ lower alkylene group for Y^b represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group and a keto group;

the protecting group of amidino group represent one group selected from the group consisting of acyl groups, alkyloxycarbonyl groups, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl groups, aralkyloxycarbonyl groups, aryloxycarbonyl groups, alkylthiocarbonyl groups, aralkyl groups, alkoxyalkyl groups, arylthio groups, alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl groups, dialkylaminoalkylidene groups, aralkylidene groups, nitrogen-containing heterocyclic alkylidene groups, cycloalkylidene groups, oxygen-containing heterocyclic alkyl groups and substituted silyl groups;

the protecting group of hydroxyl group represent acyl groups, alkyl groups, alkenyl groups, aralkyl groups, oxygen- or sulfur-containing heterocyclic groups, alkoxyalkyl groups, alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl groups or substituted silyl groups;

the protecting group of amino group represent acyl groups, alkyloxycarbonyl groups, aralkyloxycarbonyl groups, aryloxycarbonyl groups, aralkyl groups, alkoxyalkyl groups, arylthio groups, alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl groups, dialkylaminoalkylidene groups, aralkylidene groups, nitrogen-containing heterocyclic alkylidene groups, cycloalkylidene groups, diaryl- or diaralkylphosphoryl groups, oxygen-containing heterocyclic alkyl groups or substituted silyl groups;

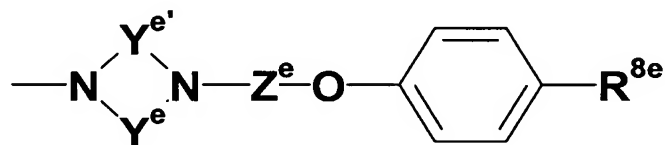
the protecting group of carboxyl group represent alkyl groups, aryl groups, aralkyl groups, acylalkyl groups, oxygen-containing heterocyclic groups, halogenoalkyl groups,

alkylsilylalkyl groups, acyloxyalkyl groups, nitrogen-containing heterocyclic alkyl groups, cycloalkyl groups, alkoxyalkyl groups, aralkoxyalkyl groups, lower alkylthioalkyl groups, arylthioalkyl groups, alkenyl groups or substituted silyl groups.

Claim 12 (New): The arylamidine compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein R^a represents at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a halogen atom.

Claim 13 (New): The arylamidine compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom.

Claim 14 (New): The arylamidine compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein R^2 represents a group represented by formula (3):



wherein Y^e and $\text{Y}^{e'}$, independently represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{2-4} lower alkylene group;

Z^e represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group; and

R^{8e} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group,

wherein the substituent of C_{2-4} lower alkylene group for Y^e and lower alkylene or alkenylene group for Z^e represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino, hydroxyl and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a

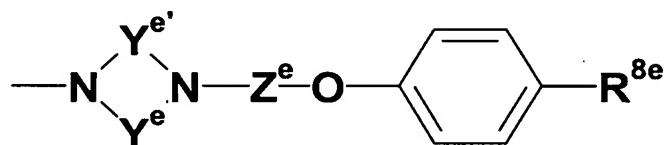
lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a lower alkoxy carbonyl group;

the substituent of C₂₋₄ lower alkylene group for Y^{e'} represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group and a keto group;

the substituent of amidino group for R^{8e} represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group and an aralkyl group;

the protecting group of each of amino, hydroxyl, carboxyl and amidino group is defined as in claim 11.

Claim 15 (New): The arylamidine compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein R² represents a group represented by the following formula:



wherein each of Y^e and Y^{e'}, independently represents an unsubstituted or substituted C₂₋₄ lower alkylene group;

Z^e represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group; and

R^{8c} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group,

wherein the substituent of C_{2-4} lower alkylene group for Y^c and lower alkylene or alkenylene group for Z^c represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino, hydroxyl and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkylsulfonylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a lower alkoxycarbonyl group;

the substituent of C_{2-4} lower alkylene group for $Y^{c'}$ represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkylsulfonylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group and a keto group;

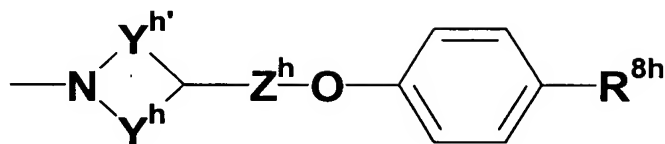
the substituent of amidino group for R^{8c} represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group and an aralkyl group;

the protecting group of amidino group is defined as in claim 11.

Claim 16 (New): The arylamidine compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11,

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom; and

R^2 represents a group represented by formula (3):



wherein Y^h and $\text{Y}^{h'}$, independently represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{2-4} lower alkylene group;

Z^h represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group; and

R^{8h} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group,

wherein the substituent of C_{2-4} lower alkylene group for Y^h and lower alkylene or alkenylene group for Z^h represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino, hydroxyl and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a lower alkoxy carbonyl group;

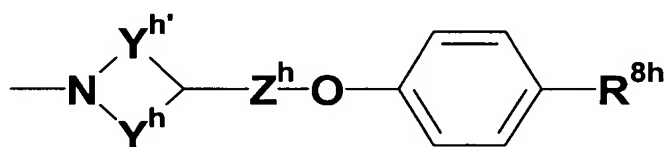
the substituent of C_{2-4} lower alkylene group for $\text{Y}^{h'}$ represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group and a keto group;

the substituent of amidino group for R^{8h} represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower

alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group and an aralkyl group;

the protecting group of each of amino, carboxyl, hydroxyl and amidino group is defined as in claim 11.

Claim 17 (New): The arylamidino compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein R^2 represents a group represented by the following formula:



wherein each of Y^h and $Y^{h'}$, which may be the same or different, represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{2-4} lower alkylene group;

Z^h represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group; and

R^{8h} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group,

wherein the substituent of C_{2-4} lower alkylene group for Y^h and lower alkylene or alkenylene group for Z^h represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino, hydroxyl and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a hydroxycarbamoyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkylsulfonylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a lower alkoxycarbonyl group;

the substituent of C_{2-4} lower alkylene group for $Y^{h'}$ represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, unprotected or protected amino and carboxyl groups, a carbamoyl group, a

hydroxycarbamoyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkylamino group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkyl carbamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group and a keto group;

the substituent of amidino group for R^{8h} represent at least one group selected from the group consisting of an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group and an aralkyl group;

the protecting group of amidino group is defined as in claim 11.

Claim 18 (New): The arylamidine compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein the arylamidine compound is 4-{3-[4-(3-{4-[amino(imino)methyl]phenoxy}propyl)-1-piperazinyl]propoxy}benzamidine.

Claim 19 (New): The arylamidine compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein the arylamidine compound is 4-{2-[1-(3-{4-[amino(imino)methyl]phenoxy}propyl)-4-piperidinyl]ethoxy}benzamidine.

Claim 20 (New): An antifungal agent comprising, as an active ingredient, the arylamidine compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11.